

# **DRAFT**

# **Shawnee Mac Lakes**

# **Conservation Area**

## **Ten-Year Area Management Plan**

### **FY 2016-2025**



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## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Shawnee Mac Lakes Conservation Area, # 7820
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1982
- **Acreage:** 256 acres
- **County:** Dent
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - A. Strategic Direction**

Sustain healthy forests, grasslands and aquatic communities at the Shawnee Mac Lakes Conservation Area (CA). Provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities near the city of Salem.
  - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition is an area with healthy forests, grasslands and aquatic communities.
  - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
  - A. Priority Areas:** Dry Fork Fisheries Priority Watershed
  - B. Natural Areas:** None
- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
  - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.
  - B. Caves:** None
  - C. Springs:** Yes, records kept with the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) Natural History Biologist.
  - D. Other:** Three Ozark fens
- III. Existing Infrastructure**
  - 4 gravel parking lots, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
  - 2 concrete boat ramps (one at each lake)
  - 2 privies (ADA accessible)
  - 1 floating fishing platform with paved access trail (ADA accessible)
  - 2 wooden benches

- 1 seven-target archery range (ADA accessible)
- 1 pavilion with picnic tables and grills (ADA accessible)
- 5 concrete picnic tables with concrete pads and grills (1 ADA accessible, under pavilion)
- 1 primitive campsite (no amenities)
- 17-acre fishing lake (Turner Lake)
- 30-acre fishing lake (Ziske Lake)
- 1.5-mile Ziske hiking trail
- 1.0-mile Turner hiking trail
- 2 dams

#### IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. Easements:** In 1989, the City of Salem was granted a 15-foot-wide sewer line easement. This is located in the southwest corner of the property.
- D. Cultural Resource Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** None observed.
- F. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- G. Boundary Issues:** None

### MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

#### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Shawnee Mac Lakes CA includes a mix of hardwood and shortleaf pine forests and grassland communities. The hardwoods are of mixed age and size classes. The pine plantations were planted by a previous owner (Dr. Ziske) and have been thinned twice to maintain a healthy stand. The grassland is predominantly fescue grass. Fescue occurs around the lakes and in a 10- to 15-acre field (south of the lower lake). The conservation area also contains three Ozark fens.

##### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Sustain a healthy forest.
- 2) Protect the watershed through proper forest management.
- 3) Manage open land/grassland communities.
- 4) Control invasive or exotic plant and animal species.

**Management Objective 1:** Sustain a healthy forest through forest management.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain current annual inspections to check for insect and disease outbreaks and die back. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Periodically monitor the area for seedling recruitment and other forest community issues. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Protect the area watershed through proper forest management.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor the area for inappropriate/damaging uses of the area, especially on the hiking trails. (Forestry, Protection)

**Strategy 2:** Work with neighboring landowners to promote proper forest/watershed management. (Forestry, Private Lands Services)

**Management Objective 3:** Manage open land/grassland communities.

**Strategy 1:** Periodically mow or burn the two large fields below the lower lake (30 acres) to maintain them in an old field condition. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Management Objective 4:** Control invasive or exotic plant and animal species.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor high priority invasive or exotic species (e.g., spotted knapweed, Japanese stiltgrass and feral hogs). Eradicate and/or control invasive or exotic species, as possible. (Forestry, Wildlife)

#### IV. **Aquatic Resource Management Considerations**

Ziske Lake (30 acres) and Turner Lake (17 acres) are in close proximity and contain similar fish communities. They are, subsequently, managed using the same regulations. The acreage and fish communities of these lakes have been stable since (and prior to) the purchase of the area in 1982. The current status of the fish populations can be found in sampling reports held by the Ozark Region Fisheries Regional Supervisor.

Lake dams were renovated in 1986.

##### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain quality fisheries at the lakes.
- 2) Enhance fishing opportunities.
- 3) Maintain lake infrastructure.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain quality sport fisheries for largemouth bass, channel catfish and sunfish through appropriate regulations.

**Strategy 1:** Install natural fish habitat in years when ice cover allows. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain an acceptable level (25 to 40 percent) of aquatic vegetation to provide summer cover for small fish. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 3:** Continue to sample fish populations every two to three years. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 4:** Survey for invasive aquatic plants and animals that may reduce fishing quality. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 5:** Maintain largemouth bass and sunfish populations by natural recruitment. Maintain channel catfish populations by yearly stockings. (Fisheries)

**Management Objective 2:** Enhance fishing opportunities.

**Strategy 1:** Spray aquatic vegetation to maintain fishing lanes and open areas in high use bank areas. (Fisheries, Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Look for opportunities to enhance angler access from the trail around Ziske Lake. (Fisheries, Forestry)

**Management Objective 3:** Maintain lake infrastructure.

**Strategy 1:** Keep both dams free of woody vegetation to minimize water level loss. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Check the outflow structures yearly to ensure proper functioning. (Fisheries, Forestry)

## **VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

There is a trail around each of the area lakes. The trail around Ziske Lake is a 1.5 mile hard-packed gravel hiking trail. This trail goes through the pines, a natural opening (of native rattle snake master plants) and mixed oak and hickory hardwood forest. The trail receives a lot of use from locals and can be used for educational purposes. The trail around Turner Lake is approximately 1.0 mile. It is all grass and is mowed once or twice a year.

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain area and infrastructure.
- 2) Maintain fishing and recreational access for the public.
- 3) Improve and encourage educational and interpretive opportunities.
- 4) Build/maintain relationships with neighboring landowners.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain area and infrastructure so that it is inviting for public use.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain current geocaches with local geocachers, according to Special Use Permit guidelines. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Conduct periodic checks for vandalism and normal wear of area infrastructure, i.e., of hiking trails, bridges, floating dock, privies, archery range, primitive camping area, picnic tables and parking lots. (Forestry, Protection)

**Strategy 3:** Maintain current sign bulletin boards for area use and regulations. (Forestry, Protection)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain fishing and recreational access for the public.

**Strategy 1:** Provide fishing opportunities according to the Wildlife Code of Missouri, CSR Chapter 11. (Protection)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain current maintenance contract to mow along portions of the lakes' banks. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 3:** Improve and encourage educational and interpretive opportunities.

**Strategy 1:** Establish interpretive signs along the hiking trail. (Forestry, Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 2:** Work with local schools and other groups to encourage field trips to the area. (Forestry, Outreach and Education)

**Management Objective 4:** Build/maintain relationships with neighboring landowners.

**Strategy 1:** Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass or any other issues affecting Shawnee Mac Lakes CA or private property. (Protection, Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Promote habitat management on neighboring landowner properties. (Private Land Services, Forestry)

## **VIII. Administrative Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Sustain funding for area maintenance contract.
- 2) Ensure Department boundaries are marked and visible to public users.
- 3) Acquisition of land.

**Management Objective 1:** Sustain funding for area maintenance contract.

**Strategy 1:** Annually budget for funds to maintain maintenance contract, i.e., for mowing, cleaning services and trash removal. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Ensure Department boundaries are marked and visible to public users.

**Strategy 1:** Continue the current five-year re-entry to maintain painted boundary lines and replace signs, as needed. (Forestry)

**Lands Proposed for Acquisition:**

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers.

Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

(Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries)

## MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
<b>Terrestrial Resource Management</b>										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 2		X		X		X		X		X
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 2		X		X		X		X		X
<i>Objective 3</i>										
Strategy 1			X			X			X	
<i>Objective 4</i>										
Strategy 1	X			X			X			X
<b>Aquatic Resource Management</b>										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1		X			X			X		
Strategy 3	X		X		X		X		X	
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 2		X			X			X		
<i>Objective 3</i>										
Strategy 1	X		X		X		X		X	
<b>Public Use Management</b>										
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 2		X			X			X		
<i>Objective 3</i>										
Strategy 1		X			X			X		
Strategy 2		X		X		X		X		X
<i>Objective 4</i>										
Strategy 1		X				X				X
<b>Administrative Considerations</b>										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1		X			X			X		
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 1				X					X	



## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

In 1982 the Conservation Commission approved the purchase of two separate tracts covering 256 acres using federal revenue funds. Each tract includes one lake. After the purchase, the tracts were combined to form the Shawnee Mac Lakes Conservation Area. The upper lake includes 30 acres (Ziske Lake); the lower lake includes 17 acres (Turner Lake). Both dams were renovated in 1986.

The area currently provides the public with a quality recreational experience within 2 miles of the city of Salem. The lakes are used heavily during warm seasons. The close proximity to the city of Salem makes the area a convenient and inviting place to fish, picnic, exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Upland Forest	105	41
Open Land	64	25
Impounded Water	47	18
Bottomland/Riparian Forest	23	9
Shortleaf Pine	17	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>100</b>

### References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (1995). *Shawnee Mac Lakes Conservation Area management plan*.

### Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

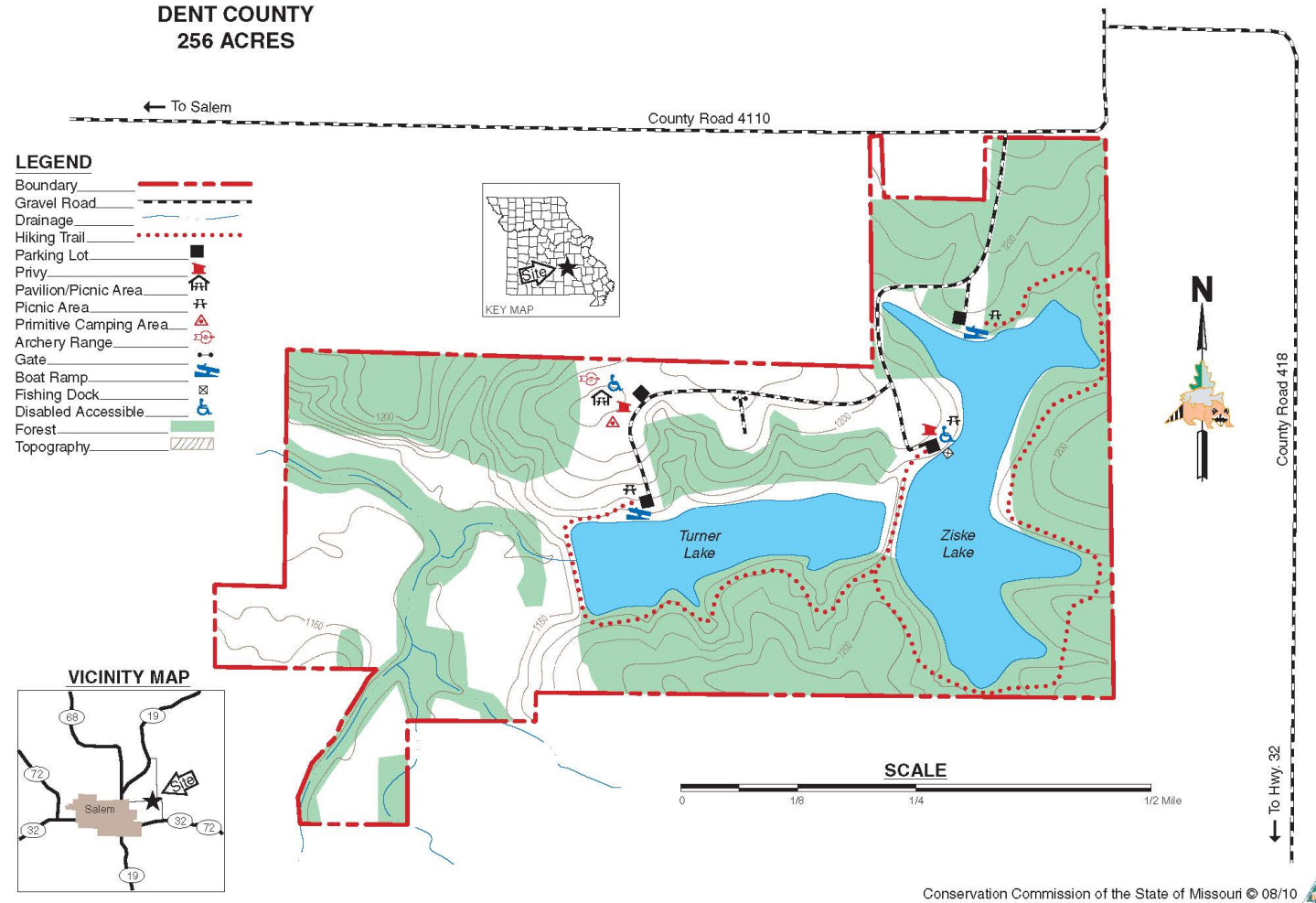
Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 1: Area Map

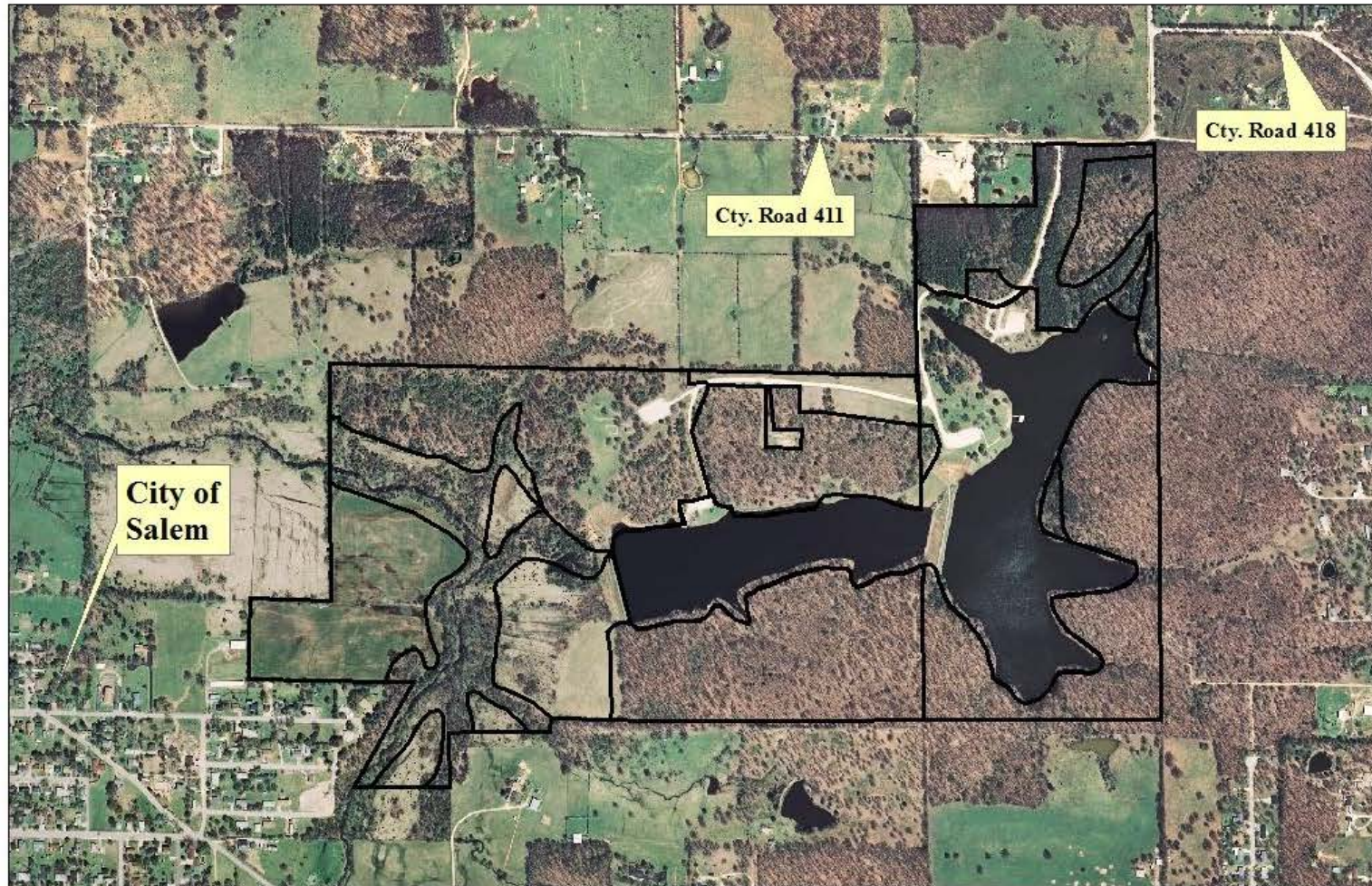
# SHAWNEE MAC LAKES CONSERVATION AREA

DENT COUNTY  
256 ACRES





**Figure 2: Aerial Map**

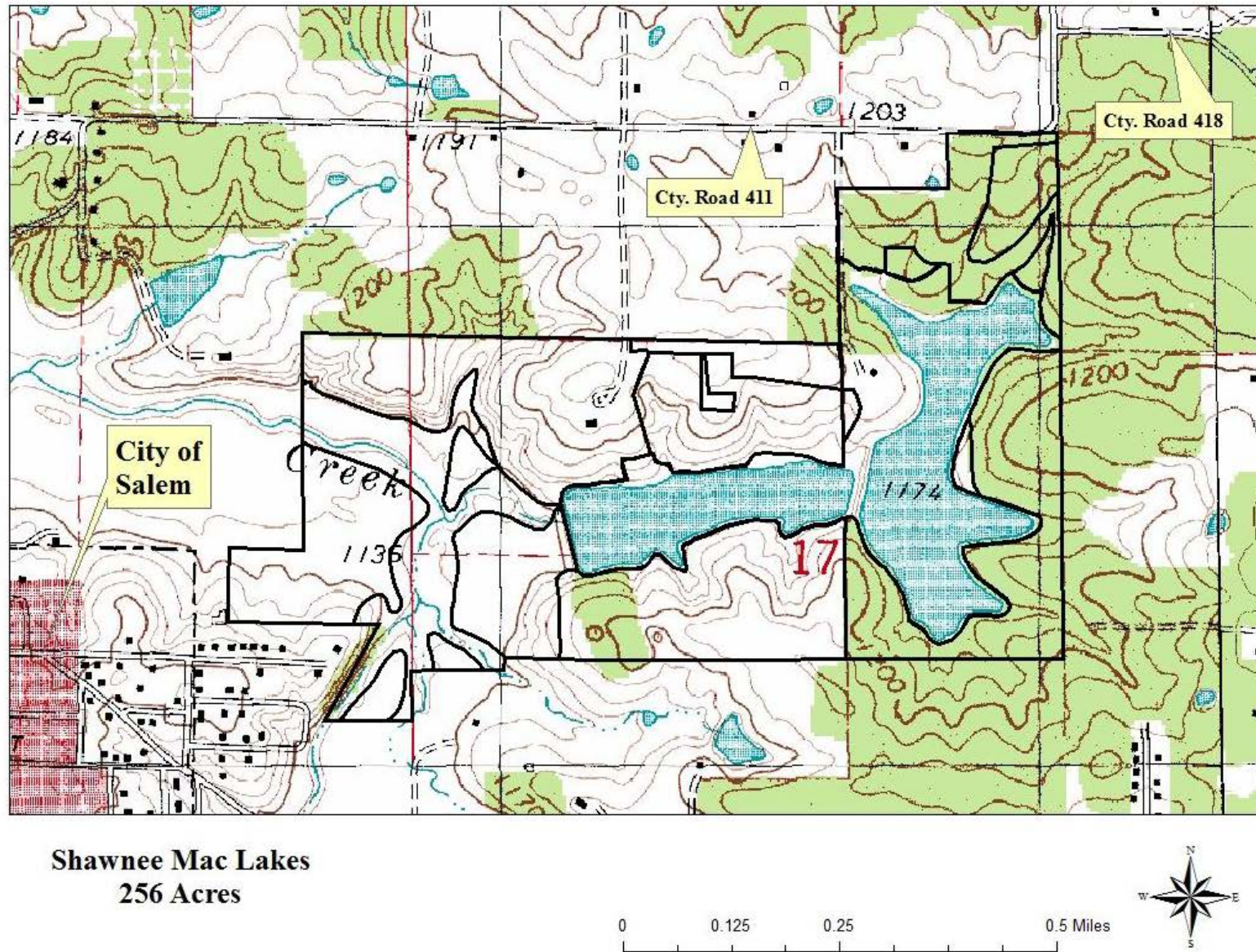


**Shawnee Mac Lakes**  
**256 Acres**





**Figure 3: Topographic Map**



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